AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following claim set:

1. – 45. (Canceled).

46. (New) A method for allowing users to share and be compensated for sharing media files using a website, comprising:

allowing a first user of a plurality of users to upload a first media file to a website and to assign a user-desired fee to the first media file, the user-desired fee to be collected each time the uploaded media file is accessed by another user;

providing a media file listing to the plurality of users, the media file listing including the first media file and at least an indication of the popularity of the first media file, the indication of popularity being based, at least in part, on ratings supplied by those of the plurality of users who have accessed the first media file; and

in response to new requests for the first media file from the plurality of users,

collecting at least the user-desired fee from each of the plurality of users who requests the first media file and, if the collecting is successful,

providing access to the first media file to each of the plurality of users from whom at least the user-desired fee has been collected,

crediting the first user who uploaded the first media file with an amount at least equal to the user-desired fee each time that access to the first media file is provided,

allowing ones of the plurality of users who accessed the first media file to rate the first media file, and

updating the indication of the popularity of the first media file based on the ratings;

wherein any of the plurality of users may upload a media file and any of the plurality of users may access a media file through the website.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the total compensation paid to the first user in connection with the first media file comprises the user-desired fee assigned to the first media file multiplied by the number of times the first media file is newly requested.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein providing access to the first media file comprises providing repeated access to the first media file within access limits, such that beyond the access limits, if access to the first media file is requested again, the request is treated as a new request and the user-desired fee is collected again.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein a new request for the first media file comprises a request for the first media file for which at least the user-desired fee associated with that media file is collected from the user who requests access.

50. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising accepting additional information about the first media file.

51. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the additional information comprises any of, or a combination of, level information, title information, or description information.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the additional information is used to match requests for media files.

53. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the first media file is in a format selected from the group consisting of AVI, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, WMV, FLIC, multi-page TIFF, and animated GIF.

54. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the first media file is of a limited and predetermined size prior to being uploaded.

55. (New) Machine-readable instructions on a machine-readable medium, interoperable with a machine to perform the method of claim 46.

56. (New) A computer network-based system for facilitating the paid exchange of media files between users comprising:

at least one server in communication with a plurality of user machines through a network, each of the user machines being associated with one or more of the users, the server being configured and adapted to:

keep user records, each of the user records including an account balance;

accept media files uploaded by any of the users, each one of the media files being associated with a user-desired fee set by the user who uploaded the media file;

provide a listing of the accepted media files to the users, the listing including a least an indication of the popularity of each media file, the indication of popularity being based on ratings of each media file provided by those of the users who have accessed the media file;

accept requests for access to particular media files from any of the users and, in response to a new request for a media file from a particular user,

deduct at least the user-desired fee associated with the particular media file from the account balance of the user requesting access to the media file,

if at least the user-desired fee associated with the particular media file is successfully deducted from the account balance of the user requesting access, provide access to the particular media file to the user requesting access,

credit the account balance of the user who uploaded the particular media file with at least the user-desired fee,

allow the user who accessed the media file to rate the media file, and

update the indication of popularity with the rating from the user who accessed the media file;

wherein the system facilitates the paid exchange of media files between users such that the total compensation paid to a user who uploads one of the media files in connection with that media file comprises at least the user-desired fee associated with that media file multiplied by the number of times that the media file is newly requested.

57. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the system provides the requesting user repeated access to the particular media file within access limits, such that beyond the access limits, if access to the first media file is requested again, the request is treated as a new request and the user-desired fee is collected again.

58. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein a new request for the particular media file comprises a request for that media file for which at least the user-desired fee associated with that media file is deducted from the account balance of the requesting user.

59. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the system is adapted to accept and store additional information about the media files.

60. (New) The system of claim 59, wherein the additional information comprises any of, or a combination of, level information, title information, or description information.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the additional information is used to match requests for media files.

62. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the media files are of limited and predetermined sizes prior to being uploaded.

63. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the computer network comprises the Internet.

64. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the user records include user profile information.

65. (New) A system including at least one server connected to a computer network that:

allows a user (1) to upload a video clip to the server for sharing with other users over the computer network, (2) to designate a user-desired fee in connection with the uploaded video clip, and (3) to collect the user-desired fee from each other user who requests to view the uploaded video clip, the total compensation paid to the user in connection with the video clip comprising at least the user-desired fee multiplied by the number of other users who requested to view the video clip; and

provides a video clip listing with an indication of the popularity of the video clip, the indication of popularity of the video clip being based on the ratings of users who have viewed the video clip.

66. (New) A method comprising:

allowing a user (1) to upload a video clip to a central server for sharing with other users over the computer network, (2) to designate a user-desired fee in connection with the uploaded video clip, and (3) to collect the user-desired fee from each other user who requests to view the uploaded video clip, the total compensation paid to the user in connection with the video clip comprising at least the user-desired fee multiplied by the number of other users who requested to view the video clip; and

providing a video clip listing with an indication of the popularity of the video clip, the indication of popularity of the video clip being based on the ratings of users who have viewed the video clip.